



June, 2010

Issue 3: Volume 2

Welcome to the Montana Primary Care Office (MT-PCO) News

This newsletter is intended to communicate information to CHCs, RHCs, NHSC sites and other partners regarding shortage designation activities, NHSC, and J-1 activities and other matters of interest to partners. We welcome your input and recommendations regarding content.

National Health Service Corps Message from Rebecca Spitzgo Associate Administrator

- This is an exciting time in history for advocates of primary care. As a part of health care reform, the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) is expanding and reaching out to better serve communities in need around the country.
- As you know, the NHSC supports primary care professionals by offering loan repayment awards in return for service in an underserved community. We are currently recruiting 4,000 new Corps members to receive loan repayment awards-more than ever before. This is an incredible opportunity for the interns, residents and other clinicians with whom you work or communicate, who want to make a difference in the lives of Americans who may not otherwise have access to basic health care.
- Primary care professionals who have completed their training are eligible to receive up to \$145,000 in loan repayment for completing a five-year service commitment, with an initial award of \$50,000 for two years of service.
- We have recently improved our application process, making it simpler and easier for interested

clinicians to apply. We are asking you to spread the word to get more clinicians to visit www.nhsc.hrsa.gov and check out the program's details and application instructions. New materials have been developed that help to outline the program's eligibility requirements and the process to apply, which can be found at: <http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/apply.htm>. (Look under the "Next Steps" section for the pdf documents.)



- **\$200 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds** will double the NHSC field strength this year.
- **Help with the Application Conference Call:** July 15, 2:30 to 4:30 pm ET, 1-888-889-0974, passcode 8360318
- **Questions:** CallCenter@hrsa.gov or 1-800-221-9393 (TTY: 1-877-897-9910) Monday through Friday (except Federal holidays), 9 am to 5:30 pm ET
- [Sign up to be notified by e-mail when the 2011 application cycle opens.](#)

Step by Step Instructions on How to Apply

1. **Read the [Applicant Information Bulletin](#)**, which describes the program in detail and gives you all the information you need to apply to the Corps.
2. **Secure a job at an approved site.** [NHSC Job Opportunities](#) lists more than 9,000 job vacancies eligible for NHSC loan repayment across the U.S.
If you are working at or seeking employment at a site that does not have a job vacancy on the list, see if it is an [approved site](#) and can list a vacancy.
If your site isn't on either list, find out if it may be [eligible to apply](#).
3. **Complete and submit the [on-line application](#).**
4. **Complete and mail or fax required forms** (PDF – 651 KB) and documentation.

Recruitment and Retention (R&R) Assistance Application

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) can make your community in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) healthier by helping you recruit and retain qualified health care clinicians who care about underserved people and choose to work where they are needed most.

Federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and other sites that care for low-income and uninsured people can become NHSC-approved sites where dentists, dental hygienists, primary care physicians, nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives, physician assistants, and mental health professionals who are eligible for loan repayment funding or have received scholarships can fulfill their service obligation. The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Multi-Year Recruitment and Retention (R&R) Assistance "Site" Application is required when sites want to utilize the NHSC Loan repayment and scholar programs. The application and instructions can be found on the NHSC web site:
<http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov/applications/rraa.asp>

All NHSC approved sites accept Medicare and Medicaid, and provide services on a sliding fee scale or other method that enables poor and uninsured patients to receive care whether or not they are insured or able to pay. Sites that have applied to and been approved by the NHSC post vacancies on [NHSC Job Opportunities](#), which currently lists more than 9,000 jobs across the U.S. The approved NHSC sites are posted on HRSA's website (www.hrsa.gov) under **Geospatial Data Warehouse/NHSC Information**. NHSC site information is updated every week on the website.

NHSC Scholar Program

In exchange for 2 to 4 years of service in an National Health Service Corps (NHSC) approved site in a Health Professional Shortage Area of greatest need. NHSC Scholars receive:

- Tuition, fees, other reasonable educational costs and living stipend
 - The Scholar program pays students in training to become primary care physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives or physician assistants
- For more information about the NHSC Scholar program visit their web site at:

<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/scholarship/apply.htm>

2010-2011 MT State Loan Repayment Program (MT-SLRP)

The Montana State Loan Repayment Program (MT-SLRP) approved 4 loan repayment applications during the 2009-2010 Cycle. The 2010-2011 MT-SLRP cycle begins July 1, 2010 for submission of applications. Eligible professionals include: Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants, Certified Nurse Midwives, Dentist, Dental Hygienist and Mental Health Professionals including Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Psychiatric Nurse Specialist, Marriage and Family Counselor, Health Service Psychologist and Licensed Professional Counselors.

For More Information about MT-SLRP
Please contact: **Lisa Benzel**
Director,
South Central Montana AHEC
(406)683-2790
lisa@mtha.org



NHSC Vacancy Listing Instructions

Health centers can update their vacancy lists at any time. In order to maximize opportunities for recruitment, it is in the best interests of the health center to ensure this vacancy list is accurate and current.

Health centers submit a vacancy list with their NHSC R&R Assistance application and may update their vacancy list through the NHSC's Recruitment, Training, and Support Center (RTSC) at 1-877-313-1823. The NHSC vacancy list is posted on the NHSC Opportunity List Web site

<http://nhscjobs.hrsa.gov/> and is for use not only by NHSC clinician participants, but by any clinician who visits the NHSC site.

Shortage Designations

Development of New Primary Care MUA/HPSA Designation Criteria-Latest Update

HRSA will be conducting a Negotiated Rule Making process for the development of new MUA/HPSA designation criteria, as mandated in the Affordable Care Act. The first step was the publication of a Federal Register Notice on May 11. Updates will be posted at the below link as they become available.

- [Notice of Intent to Form Negotiated Rule Making Committee](#)
(05/11/2010)

Current Pending HPSA Designations

- Mineral County Dental
- Phillipsburg RSA Dental
- Ravalli County Low Income Dental
- Rosebud County Dental

For More Information about Shortage Designations please visit the shortage designation website:

<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>

PCO Contact Information

As always, if you need additional information about the NHSC, shortage designations or foreign medical graduates, please don't hesitate to contact me at the address or telephone number listed below:



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Montana PCO Web Site:
<http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/PHSD/Primary-Care/primary-care-index.shtml>





SITE RECRUITERS SAVE THE DATE

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS

Scholar Orientation and Placement Conference

August 26–28, 2010 (Thursday through Saturday)



WHAT:

Scholar Orientation and Placement Conference for NHSC-approved Sites and Scholars—

- Meet with prospective NHSC job candidates
- Get connected with a network of NHSC clinicians and Site Recruiters
- Learn about the NHSC program and meet NHSC Site Specialists and Regional Representatives

WHO IS ELIGIBLE:

- Eligible Sites must have a current job vacancy on the NHSC Job Opportunities List
- Eligible Sites must meet HPSA score requirements (NHSC anticipates that eligible Sites will be required to meet the minimum HPSA score of 15 for Physician Assistants and 17 for all other disciplines. A July 1, 2010, Federal Register notice will officially establish the minimum HPSA score[s])

WHERE:

Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel
265 Peachtree Street, NE
Atlanta, GA 30303

HOW:

All recruiters must complete the registration process and receive prior approval from the NHSC Scholar Orientation and Placement Conference Team in order to attend. Recruiters are advised not to make any travel arrangements until confirmation of their attendance is approved. If you have any questions, please contact the NHSC Scholar Orientation and Placement Conference Team at 1-800-676-8785, ext. 3900, or scholar2010@nhscevents.com.

FUNDING:

Please be aware that no more than two (2) recruiters may attend free of charge. **Recruiters are responsible for all travel, lodging, and exhibit-related expenses.**

For more information about approval to recruit and registration, please visit the *recruiter* section of the Web site after July 1, 2010, at www.nhscevents.com/scholar2010.

Making a Difference One Community at a Time

